



# STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BOAT-INSPECTION STATIONS NOW OPEN STATEWIDE FOR DETECTING NON-NATIVE MUSSELS**

### **Expect to be inspected**

BOISE –Boat-inspection and decontamination stations are now up and running at locations near Idaho's borders throughout the state. Officials from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced Thursday that an effort to prevent the introduction of invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels, is underway.

ISDA officials have been working swiftly to get watercraft inspection stations in place to implement the Invasive Species Fund Program passed by the 2009 Idaho Legislature. The objective is to prevent quagga and zebra mussels – prolific non-native mussels that destroy aquatic ecosystems, clog pipes and damage other infrastructure – from contaminating Idaho's pristine lakes, rivers and reservoirs. Inspection stations are located in areas where high boat traffic is expected. Idaho's strategy is to inspect as many motorized and non-motorized watercraft as possible before they launch in Idaho waterways. All boats that have been in contaminated water or have visible signs of the aquatic invaders must be decontaminated to prevent invasive species from spreading into Idaho waters. Quagga mussels currently infest waterbodies in Nevada, Colorado, California, Arizona and Utah and many waterbodies in the Great Lakes area.

Inspection stations will operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m daily and are located on high traffic roads entering Idaho, as well as, near some waterbodies. In the coming weeks additional inspection stations will be set up at various locations throughout the state.

In addition, all out-of-state boats and in-state boats 10 feet or longer are required to have an Invasive Species sticker on watercrafts before launching in Idaho. The stickers can be purchased online through the [Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation](#) or at Idaho State Parks.

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The boat stickers cost \$20 for out-of-state crafts, \$10 for in-state motorized boats and \$5 for in-state non-motorized crafts under 10 feet in length.

For more information about invasive species and **inspection stations**, please contact Pamm Juker or Lloyd Knight at ISDA, 208-332-8500 or visit [www.agri.idaho.gov](http://www.agri.idaho.gov) . For more information about invasive species **boat stickers**, contact Renee Iverson at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, 208-334-4199.

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